

House Study Bill 520 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON HITE)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the assessments administered to practitioner
2 preparation program admission candidates and to practitioner
3 preparation program students prior to students' completion
4 of a practitioner preparation program.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
2 2022, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. (1) ~~If the institution administers a preprofessional~~
4 ~~skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service~~
5 ~~to practitioner preparation program admission candidates,~~
6 ~~the institution shall report to the department no later than~~
7 ~~August 1 annually, in the form and manner prescribed by the~~
8 ~~department, the percentage of students whose scores on the~~
9 ~~assessments administered during the prior fiscal year were~~
10 ~~above, at, and below the minimum passing score set by the~~
11 ~~institution, and shall report any services or opportunities to~~
12 ~~retake the assessment the institution may make available to a~~
13 ~~student who fails assessment. The department shall compile~~
14 ~~the reports submitted under this subparagraph and publish the~~
15 ~~compiled information on its internet site.~~

16 {2} Administer, prior to a student's completion of the
17 practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's
18 approval, ~~subject assessments designed by a nationally~~
19 ~~recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge~~
20 ~~of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable~~
21 ~~subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for~~
22 ~~preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning. A~~
23 ~~student shall not successfully complete the program unless the~~
24 ~~scores achieved by the student~~ score the student achieves on
25 ~~the assessments~~ assessment administered under this subparagraph
26 ~~are~~ paragraph is at or above the minimum passing ~~scores~~ score
27 set by the department.

28 {a} (2) In setting the minimum passing ~~scores~~ score for
29 purposes of this ~~subparagraph~~ paragraph, the department shall
30 consider all of the following:

31 {i} (a) Scores required for similar tests in all of the
32 states contiguous to Iowa.

33 {ii} (b) The supply and demand imbalance of content areas
34 or teaching positions currently experienced in Iowa.

35 {b} (3) A student who successfully completes the

1 practitioner preparation program as required under this
2 ~~subparagraph~~ paragraph shall be deemed to have attained a
3 passing score on the ~~assessments~~ assessment administered under
4 this ~~subparagraph~~ paragraph even if the department subsequently
5 sets a different minimum passing ~~scores~~ score.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256.16, subsection 3, Code 2022, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 3. The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 17A
9 to provide that the director shall waive the assessment
10 requirements of subsection 1, paragraph "a", ~~subparagraph (2)~~,
11 for not more than one year for a person who has completed the
12 course requirements for an approved practitioner preparation
13 program but attained an assessment score below the minimum
14 passing scores set by the department for successful completion
15 of the program under subsection 1, paragraph "a", ~~subparagraph~~
16 ~~(2)~~.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 This bill relates to the assessments administered to
21 practitioner preparation program admission candidates and to
22 practitioner preparation program students prior to students'
23 completion of a practitioner preparation program.

24 Current law provides that the state board of education
25 shall adopt rules requiring all higher education institutions
26 providing practitioner preparation to, prior to a student's
27 completion of the practitioner preparation program, administer
28 either subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized
29 testing service or a valid and reliable subject-area-specific,
30 performance-based assessment centered on student learning.
31 Current law also provides that a higher education institution
32 may administer a preprofessional skills test offered by
33 a nationally recognized testing service to candidates for
34 admission to the practitioner preparation program. An
35 institution that does so must report to the department of

1 education the percentage of students whose scores on the
2 assessments were above, at, and below the minimum passing
3 score set by the institution, and shall report any services or
4 opportunities to retake the assessment that the institution
5 may make available to a student who fails an assessment.
6 Additionally, current law provides that the department shall
7 compile the reports and publish the compiled information on its
8 internet site.

9 The bill strikes the ability of an institution to administer
10 a preprofessional skills test to admission candidates and the
11 corresponding reporting requirements related to that test. The
12 bill also strikes an institution's option of administering
13 subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized
14 testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge prior to a
15 student's completion of the practitioner preparation program,
16 therefore requiring the institution to instead administer a
17 valid and reliable subject-area-specific, performance-based
18 assessment for preservice teacher candidates.

19 The bill makes conforming changes.